A new ballad intituled, the ſtout Criple of Cornnwall, wherein is ſhewed his diſſolute life, and deſerued death. To the tune of the Blinde Begger.

OF a ſtout Cripple that kept the high way,
and begd for his liuing all time of the day:
I ſorry Ile tell you that pleaſant ſhall be,
the Cripple of Cornwall ſirnamed was he.

He crept on his hands & his knees up and downe,
in a torn iacket and ragged patcht gowne:
For he had neuer a leg to the knee,
the Cripple of cornwall ſirnamed was he,

He was of ſtomacke couragious and ſtout,
for he had no cauſe to complaine of the gout:
To go upon ſtilts moſt cunning was he,
with a ſtaffe on his neck gallant and free.

Yea no good fellowſhip would he forſake
were it in ſecret a purſe for to take:
His help was good as any might be,
the Cripple of Cornwall ſirnamed was he.

When he upon any ſuch ſeruice did go,
the crafty young cripple prouided it ſo:
His tooles he kept cloſe in an old hol ow tree,
that ſtood from the City a mile two or three.

Thus all the day long he begd for reliefe,
And late in the night he plaid the falſe theefe:
And ſeuen yeares together this cuſtome kept he
and no man thought him ſuch a perſon to be,

There was few gralliers went on the way,
but unto the cripple for paſſage did pay,
And euery braue Marchant that he did deſcry,
he emptied their purſes ere they paſſed by,

The gallant L. Courtney both valliant and bold,
rode forth with great plenty of ſiluer and golde
At Exeter there a purchaſe to pay,
but that the falſe cripple his iourney did ſtay.

For why the falſe cripple heard tidings of late
as he lay for almes at this noblemans gate:
What day and what houre his iourney ſhould be,
this is quoth the cripple a booty for me,

Then to his companions this mater he moued,
whith he in like actions before time had proued.
They make themſelues ready & deeply they ſweare
this monies their owne before they come there.

Upon his two ſtilts this cripple doth mount
to haue his beſt ſhare he makes his account
All clothed in canuas downe to the ground
he takes up his ſtanding his mates with him round

Then comes the L. Courtney with half a ſcore me,
that little ſuſpected theſe theenes in their den:
And they perceiuing them come to their hand,
in a darke euening they bid him ſtand

Deliuer thy purſe quoth the Cripple with ſpeed,
for we be good fellowes and thereof haue neede

Not ſo quoth L. Courtney but this I tell thee,
winne it and weare it, elſe get none of me.

With that they L. Courtney ſtood in his defence
and ſo did his ſeruants but ere they went hence
Two of the true men were ſlaine in the fight,
and foure of the theeues were put to their flight,

And while for their ſafegard they ran thus away
the iolly bold cripple did hold the reſt play.
And with his pikeſtaffe he wounded them ſo
as they were unable to run or to goe.

With fight the L. Courtney was driuen out of breath
and moſt of his ſeruants wounded to death,
Then came other horſemen riding ſo faſt,
the cripple was forced to fly at laſt.

And ouer a riuer a riuer that ran their beſide,
which was very deep and eighteen foot wide,
With his long ſtaffe and his ſtilts leaped he,
and ſhifted himſelf in an old hollow tree.

Then through the country was hue and cry made
to haue theſe theeues apprehended and ſtaid,
The Cripple he creeps on his hands & his knees
and on the hie way great poſting he ſees,

And as they came Riding he begging doth ſay,
O giue me one penny good Maſter I pray:
And thus vnto Exeter creeps he along
no man ſuſpecting that he had done wrong.

Anone the L. Courtney he eſpide in the ſtreet:
he comes unto him and kiſſes his feet:
Saying, God ſaue your honour & keep you frō ill
and from the hands of you enemies ſtill.

Amen qd, L. Courtney & therwith flung downe
unto the poore Cripple an Engliſh crowne:
Away went the cripple and thus did he chinke,
fiue C. pounds more would make me to drinke

In vaine that hue and cry it was made. (ſaid
they found none of them though the country was
But this grieued the cripple both night and day,
that he ſo unluckely miſt of his pray

Nine hundred pounds this cripple had got,
by begging and robbing ſo good was his lot,
A thouſand pound he would make it he ſaid,
and then he would quite giue ouer his trade.

But as he ſtriued his minde to fulfill,
in following his actions ſo lewd and ſo ill,
At laſt he was taken the law to ſuffice,
condemned and hanged at Exeter aſſize,

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Which made all men amazed to ſee,
that ſuch an impotent perſon as he,
Should venture himſelf in ſuch actions as they,
to rob in ſuch ſort upon the hye way.

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